**In the Claims:**

Please add claims 58-63 as indicated below.

1. (Previously presented) A network management system, comprising:

a gateway which is coupled to a plurality of managed objects and which is configured to deliver events generated by the managed objects to one or more managers or to deliver requests generated by the managers to one or more of the managed objects; and

a platform-independent interface to the gateway, wherein the gateway is configurable to communicate with the managers through the platform-independent interface to deliver the events or requests;

wherein the gateway is configurable to provide object-level access control between the managers and the managed objects to receive the events from or to send the requests to the managed objects, wherein said object-level access control is provided at the individual object level so that one of the managers is granted access to one of the managed objects while being prevented from interfacing with a different one of the managed objects.

2. (Original) The network management system of claim 1, wherein the gateway is configurable to determine whether each of the managers is authorized to communicate with each of the managed objects.

3. (Original) The network management system of claim 1, wherein the gateway is configurable to authenticate the managers to receive the events from or to send the requests to the managed objects as a function of the identity of the managed object.

4. (Original) The network management system of claim 1, wherein the gateway is configurable to authenticate the managers to receive the events or send the requests as a function of user IDs entered by users of the managers.

5. (Original) The network management system of claim 1, wherein the events or requests are delivered by the gateway through the platform-independent interface according to Internet Inter-Object Protocol (IIOP).

6. (Original) The network management system of claim 1, wherein the platform-independent interface to the gateway is expressed in an interface definition language, and wherein the interface definition language comprises a language for defining interfaces to the managed objects across a plurality of platforms and across a plurality of programming languages.

7. (Original) The network management system of claim 6, wherein the interface definition language comprises OMG IDL.

8. (Original) The network management system of claim 1, wherein the managed objects comprise one or more objects corresponding to a telephone network.

9. (Original) The network management system of claim 1, wherein the managed objects comprise an object corresponding to a telecommunications device.

10. (Original) The network management system of claim 1, wherein the gateway is configurable to provide security audit trails.

11. (Previously presented) The network management system of claim 10, wherein the gateway providing security audit trails comprises the gateway providing access to a logging service.

12. (Previously presented) The network management system of claim 11, wherein the logging service is operable to log an ID of a user that receives each event or sends each request.

13. (Previously presented) The network management system of claim 11, wherein the logging service is operable to log an ID of the managed object that is the source of each event or the target of each request.

14. (Previously presented) The network management system of claim 11, wherein the logging service is operable to log a time at which each event or request is generated.

15. (Previously presented) The network management system of claim 11, wherein the logging service is operable to log a time at which each event or request is delivered.

16. (Original) The network management system of claim 1, wherein the requests comprise a query for information concerning one of the managed objects.

17. (Original) The network management system of claim 1, wherein the requests comprise a command to set one or more parameters of one of the managed objects.

18. (Original) The network management system of claim 1, wherein the requests are converted from the interface definition language to a Portable Management Interface (PMI) format prior to delivery to the managed objects.

19. (Original) The network management system of claim 1, wherein the requests are converted from the interface definition language to a platform-specific format prior to delivery to the managed objects.

20. (Previously presented) A network management method, comprising:

sending an identity of a user of a manager application to a gateway, wherein the gateway is configurable to communicate with the manager application through a platform-independent interface;

determining on a managed object level whether or not the manager application is allowed to receive an event generated by one of a plurality of managed objects or to send a request to the one of the plurality of managed objects as a function of the identity of the user of the manager application, whereby access for the manager application to receive the event or send the request is approved or denied for said one of the plurality of managed objects at the individual object level so that the manager application is granted access to one of the plurality of managed objects while being prevented from interfacing with a different one of the plurality of managed objects; and

delivering the event to the manager application or the request to the managed object if the manager access is approved.

21. (Original)   The network management method of claim 20, wherein the gateway is configurable to determine whether the manager is authorized to communicate with the managed object.

22. (Original)   The network management method of claim 20, wherein the gateway is configurable to authenticate the manager to receive the event or send the request as a function as the identity of the managed object generating the event or receiving the request.

23. (Original)   The network management method of claim 20, wherein the gateway is configurable to authenticate the manager to receive the event or send the request as a function of a user ID entered by the user of the manager.

24. (Original) The network management method of claim 20, wherein the event or request is delivered by the gateway through the platform-independent interface according to Internet Inter-Object Protocol (IIOP).

25. (Original) The network management method of claim 20, wherein the platform-independent interface to the gateway is expressed in an interface definition language, and wherein the interface definition language comprises a language for defining interfaces to the managed objects across a plurality of platforms and across a plurality of programming languages.

26. (Original) The network management method of claim 25, wherein the interface definition language comprises OMG IDL.

27. (Original) The network management method of claim 20, wherein the managed object comprises an object corresponding to a telephone network.

28. (Original) The network management method of claim 20, wherein the managed object comprises an object corresponding to a telecommunications device.

29. (Original) The network management method of claim 20, wherein the gateway is configurable to provide security audit trails.

30. (Original) The network management method of claim 29, wherein the gateway providing security audit trails comprises the gateway providing access to a logging service.

31. (Original) The network management method of claim 30, wherein the logging service is operable to log an ID of a user that receives the event or sends the request.

32. (Original)   The network management method of claim 30, wherein the logging service is operable to log an ID of the managed object that is the source of the event or the target of the request.

33. (Original)   The network management method of claim 30, wherein the logging service is operable to log a time at which the event or request is generated.

34. (Original)   The network management method of claim 30, wherein the logging service is operable to log a time at which the event or request is delivered.

35. (Original)   The network management method of claim 20, wherein the request comprises a query for information concerning the managed object.

36. (Original)   The network management method of claim 20, wherein the request comprises a command to set one or more parameters of the managed object.

37. (Original)   The network management method of claim 20, wherein the request is converted from the interface definition language to a Portable Management Interface (PMI) format prior to delivery to the managed object.

38. (Original)   The network management method of claim 20, wherein the request is converted from the interface definition language to a platform-specific format prior to delivery to the managed object.

39. (Previously presented)   A carrier medium comprising program instructions for network management, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to perform:

> sending an identity of a user of a manager application to a gateway, wherein the gateway is configurable to communicate with the manager application through a platform-independent interface;

determining on a managed object level whether or not the manager application is allowed to receive an event generated by one of a plurality of managed objects or to send a request to the one of the plurality of managed objects as a function of the identity of the user of the manager application, whereby access for the manager application to receive the event or send the request is approved or denied for said one of the plurality of managed objects at the individual object level so that the manager application is granted access to one of the plurality of managed objects while being prevented from interfacing with a different one of the plurality of managed objects; and

delivering the event to the manager application or the request to the managed object if the manager access is approved.

40. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the gateway is configurable to determine whether the manager is authorized to communicate with the managed object.

41. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the gateway is configurable to authenticate the manager to receive the event or send the request as a function as the identity of the managed object generating the event or receiving the request.

42. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the gateway is configurable to authenticate the manager to receive the event or send the request as a function of a user ID entered by the user of the manager.

43. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the event or request is delivered by the gateway through the platform-independent interface according to Internet Inter-Object Protocol (IIOP).

44. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the platform-independent interface to the gateway is expressed in an interface definition language, and wherein the interface definition language comprises a language for defining interfaces to the managed objects across a plurality of platforms and across a plurality of programming languages.

45. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 44, wherein the interface definition language comprises OMG IDL.

46. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the managed object comprises an object corresponding to a telephone network.

47. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the managed object comprises an object corresponding to a telecommunications device.

48. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the gateway is configurable to provide security audit trails.

49. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 48, wherein the gateway providing security audit trails comprises the gateway providing access to a logging service.

50. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 49, wherein the logging service is operable to log an ID of a user that receives the event or sends the request.

51. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 49, wherein the logging service is operable to log an ID of the managed object that is the source of the event or the target of the request.

52. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 49, wherein the logging service is operable to log a time at which the event or request is generated.

53. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 49, wherein the logging service is operable to log a time at which the event or request is delivered.

54. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the request comprises a query for information concerning the managed object.

55. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the request comprises a command to set one or more parameters of the managed object.

56. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the request is converted from the interface definition language to a Portable Management Interface (PMI) format prior to delivery to the managed object.

57. (Original) The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the request is converted from the interface definition language to a platform-specific format prior to delivery to the managed object.

58. (New) A network management system, comprising:

a gateway which is coupled to a plurality of managed objects and which is configured to deliver events generated by the managed objects to one or more managers or to deliver requests generated by the managers to one or more of the managed objects; and

a platform-independent interface to the gateway, wherein the gateway is configurable to communicate with the managers through the platform-independent interface to deliver the events or requests;

wherein the gateway is configurable to provide object-level access control between the managers and the managed objects to receive the events from

or to send the requests to the managed objects, wherein said object-level access control is provided at the individual object level so that one of the managers is granted access to one of the managed objects while being prevented from interfacing with a different one of the managed objects, and wherein the managers use a request Service Access Point (SAP) for requests and responses.

59. (New) A network management method, comprising:

sending an identity of a user of a manager application to a gateway, wherein the gateway is configurable to communicate with the manager application through a platform-independent interface;

determining on a managed object level whether or not the manager application is allowed to receive an event generated by one of a plurality of managed objects or to send a request to the one of the plurality of managed objects as a function of the identity of the user of the manager application, whereby access for the manager application to receive the event or send the request is approved or denied for said one of the plurality of managed objects at the individual object level so that the manager application is granted access to one of the plurality of managed objects while being prevented from interfacing with a different one of the plurality of managed objects; and

delivering the event to the manager application or the request to the managed object if the manager access is approved;

wherein the manager application uses a request Service Access Point (SAP) for requests and responses.

60. (New)  A carrier medium, comprising program instructions for network management, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to perform:

sending an identity of a user of a manager application to a gateway, wherein the gateway is configurable to communicate with the manager application through a platform-independent interface;

determining on a managed object level whether or not the manager application is allowed to receive an event generated by one of a plurality of managed objects or to send a request to the one of the plurality of managed objects as a function of the identity of the user of the manager application, whereby access for the manager application to receive the event or send the request is approved or denied for said one of the plurality of managed objects at the individual object level so that the manager application is granted access to one of the plurality of managed objects while being prevented from interfacing with a different one of the plurality of managed objects; and

delivering the event to the manager application or the request to the managed object if the manager access is approved;

wherein the manager application uses a request Service Access Point (SAP) for requests and responses.

61. (New)  A network management system, comprising:

a gateway which is coupled to a plurality of managed objects and which is configured to deliver events generated by the managed objects to one or more managers or to deliver requests generated by the managers to one or more of the managed objects;

a platform-independent interface to the gateway, wherein the gateway is configurable to communicate with the managers through the platform-independent interface to deliver the events or requests;

wherein the gateway is configurable to provide object-level access control between the managers and the managed objects to receive the events from or to send the requests to the managed objects, wherein said object-level access control is provided at the individual object level so that one of the managers is granted access to one of the managed objects while being prevented from interfacing with a different one of the managed objects; and

wherein the gateway uses a singleton SAP object that shares all ProxyAgents through which a manager deals with a managed object and allows the insertion of the user name in the request message to enforce object-level access control.

62. (New) A network management method, comprising:

sending an identity of a user of a manager application to a gateway, wherein the gateway is configurable to communicate with the manager application through a platform-independent interface;

determining on a managed object level whether or not the manager application is allowed to receive an event generated by one of a plurality of managed objects or to send a request to the one of the plurality of managed objects as a function of the identity of the user of the manager application, whereby access for the manager application to receive the event or send the request is approved or denied for said one of the plurality of managed objects at the individual object level so that the manager application is granted access to one of the plurality of managed objects while being

prevented from interfacing with a different one of the plurality of managed objects; and

delivering the event to the manager application or the request to the managed object if the manager access is approved; and

wherein the gateway uses a singleton SAP object that shares all ProxyAgents through which the manager deals with a managed object and allows the insertion of the user name in the request message to enforce object-level access control.

63. (New) A carrier medium, comprising program instructions for network management, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to perform:

sending an identity of a user of a manager application to a gateway, wherein the gateway is configurable to communicate with the manager application through a platform-independent interface;

determining on a managed object level whether or not the manager application is allowed to receive an event generated by one of a plurality of managed objects or to send a request to the one of the plurality of managed objects as a function of the identity of the user of the manager application, whereby access for the manager application to receive the event or send the request is approved or denied for said one of the plurality of managed objects at the individual object level so that the manager application is granted access to one of the plurality of managed objects while being prevented from interfacing with a different one of the plurality of managed objects; and

delivering the event to the manager application or the request to the managed object if the manager access is approved; and

wherein the gateway uses a singleton SAP object that shares all ProxyAgents through which the manager deals with a managed object and allows the insertion of the user name in the request message to enforce object-level access control.